

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Stovall, John W., Farm  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Location

street & number State Road 1507 ☒ not for publication  
city, town Stovall ☒ vicinity  
state North Carolina code NC county Granville code 077 zip code 27582

## 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>2</u>	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>1</u>	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>9</u>	<u>5</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Historic & Architectural Resources of  
Granville County, N.C.

Number of contributing resources previously  
listed in the National Register 0

## 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  
☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the  
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.  
In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Date

State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

## 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.☐ See continuation sheet.☐ determined eligible for the National  
Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.☐ determined not eligible for the  
National Register.☐ removed from the National Register.☐ other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic-single dwellingAgriculture/Subsistence

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic-single dwellingAgriculture/Subsistence**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Greek RevivalFederal

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stonewalls aluminumroof tinother woodbrick/stone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1 DESCRIPTION

The meticulously maintained house at the center of the Stovall Family Farm has two major blocks, both built before the Civil War. The two-story western half of the heavy timber structure was already standing as a Presbyterian glebe house when John W. and Lucy (Barnett) Stovall purchased the farm in 1839; its companion one-story-and-loft eastern half was built by the Stovalls shortly before the War. Both halves of the house are handsomely finished with period Federal and Greek Revival style woodwork. Turned north towards the site of a road that has long since been plowed under, the house faces a horizon of rolling fields and woods unmarked by any visible buildings other than two of its own outbuildings and a family cemetery. To the house's south, lining the gravel farm lane between its rear elevation and a paved state-maintained road, are nine additional outbuildings, including four tobacco barns that stand as evidence of the crop that has always been the heart of the farm.

The older, western half of the house is two stories tall and one-room deep. Three bays light its front, north-facing elevation, a door at the east and two windows at the west; the bungalow style porch that shades this elevation was built in the 1920s. Its flush gable end roof is abutted by a rock and brick chimney to the west and the second half of the house to the east. Originally a traditional hall-parlor plan dwelling, the western block now has a stair hall and one large chamber downstairs. Above the chamber is a bedroom; above the hall is a small hallway and, at the front, a second tiny bedroom, which was used as a doctor's office by the Stovalls' son, Joseph Walker Stovall, in the 1850s and early 1860s.

The finish of the western half of the house, a mix of Federal and Greek Revival style decorative elements, suggests that it was not old when purchased by the Stovalls, probably raised in the 1830s. Its nine-over-nine windows and six-panel doors are Federal in form and articulation. Its surrounds partake of both the Federal and Greek Revival style, some with a delicate three-part form, some with heavy ornate moldings and others with post and lintel frames and cornerblocks; it is not clear which, if any, were altered when the Stovalls added onto the house. The parlor mantel is transitional in style, its late Federal form adorned with Greek Revival style frets and cushion shaped molding; the mantel upstairs is a more simply finished post and lintel type.

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Added by the Stovalls, probably late in the 1850s, the eastern half of the house is deeper but shorter than its earlier mate. Downstairs it has one large room at the front and two smaller side by side rooms to the rear. Along with the older half of the house, its weatherboards were sheathed with aluminum siding in the early 1970s. Still retaining much of its original woodwork, it has had a door removed, its place covered with siding, at its front elevation, and a door replaced by a window at its side. Its stair, which stood at the western wall of the dining room next to the other stair, has been removed; the upstairs rooms of the two blocks, once completely separated by a wall, are now joined by a door. The finish of the block is Greek Revival in style, featuring symmetrical post and lintel mantels, four-panel doors and fluted surrounds with cornerblocks. The downstairs rooms and the hallway and loft bedroom above have flush-sheathed wainscoting, an early Georgian and Federal style decorative device that persisted in the county well into the Greek Revival period. Unlike its mate, the block has six-over-nine windows downstairs and two exterior end chimneys, allowing the placement of fireplaces in both of the two main downstairs rooms. The third and smallest downstairs room, once a small bedroom, has been connected with the rear porches of the two blocks, which were enclosed around 1954.

Eleven outbuildings, five of which contribute to the integrity of the property, and a contributing family cemetery, stand on the 54 acre contributing site included in the nomination. To the northwest of the house ["A" on the accompanying sketch map] are a contributing frame stable [B] and frame corncrib [C], the latter shifted from across the farm lane, both built around 1935. To the northeast is the family cemetery [D], which includes the graves of John and Lucy Stovall and a number of their descendants. To the house's south are nine additional outbuildings. Immediately to its rear are a non-contributing frame smokehouse [G] and former ordering house [H], both built in the 1950s, and the property's two oldest outbuildings - a smokehouse [F], later used as a striphouse, and a lumber house [E] - both built by John Stovall after the Civil War. To their rear, along the farm lane, are a non-contributing frame packhouse [I], built from the timbers of a dismantled house that stood in Butner in southern Granville County until the early 1940s; and four log tobacco barns, one built in 1935 [M], one in 1937 [K] and two in the 1940s [J and L]. All of the barns were built of logs in the traditional way, the Stovalls cutting the

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trees, the community pitching in to raise them. The latter two non-contributing ones are considered non-contributing solely because they were built within the past 50 years. For the same age reasons, the farm's period of significance is cut off at 1937, even though it has been farmed since by traditional methods.

## 8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Agriculture

Period of Significance

1830s-1937

Significant Dates

1830s

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

☒ See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior  
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Both of its halves built prior to the Civil War, John W. Stovall's heavy timber frame house is historically significant as one of the older intact dwellings in Granville County, and architecturally significant as a fine, traditional, well-maintained example of Federal and Greek Revival style architecture. (See Historic Context 1 - The Plantation Era in Granville County, 1746-1865 - and associated Property Types 1 - Georgian and Federal Style Dwellings - and 2 - Greek Revival and Romantic Style Dwellings) Home to a preacher and a planter prior to the War, the farm - as shown by its surviving outbuildings - served a bright leaf tobacco farmer after the conflict and it is therefore further significant as representative of life on a traditional bright leaf era farm. (See Historic Context 2 - Bright Leaf Tobacco and Rural Granville County, 1866-1937 - and associated Property Type 6 - Outbuildings) Although traditional methods of cultivating and flue-curing tobacco continued in use at the farm past 1937, its significance does not extend beyond that date because it has not achieved exceptional significance within the past half century.

The two-story western half of the house was already standing in 1839, the year John Walker Stovall (1814-1899) and his wife, the former Lucy Barnett (1816-1863), moved from the vicinity of Marrow's Chapel in neighboring Vance County and purchased the farm. Owned by the congregation of Grassy Creek Presbyterian Church, the 320 acre property was referred to as "the Glebe" in the deed, a reference that included the western half of the house, which was the dwelling of the congregation's pastor [Deed Book 11, Page 121].<sup>1</sup>

The western half of the house is architecturally significant for both its traditional form and its intact finish, which shows common local expressions of the Federal and Greek Revival styles and the short-lived transition between. Built with a traditional hall-parlor plan, the heavy timber frame structure retains many pre-1839, Federal style decorative features. These include, at the first floor, nine-over-nine windows, a six-panel door set in a three-part surround and a handsome early parlor mantel. This mantel, though Federal in form with its pilaster-like posts topped by entablatures, intimates the coming Greek Revival style through its use of blocks decorated with a winding Greek fret motif and a cushion-shaped molding set beneath its shelf. At the second floor, the tiny front bedroom was used for a short time in

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the 1850s and early 1860s by the Stovalls' son, Dr. Joseph Walker Stovall, as his medical office.<sup>2</sup>

The eastern half of the house, added by the Stovalls shortly before the Civil War, has a Greek Revival style finish which includes four-panel doors, fluted cornerblock surrounds and post and lintel mantels.<sup>3</sup> The flush-sheathed wainscoting of the downstairs and upstairs rooms is a not uncommon local example of a Georgian and Federal form surviving into the 1850s.

John W. Stovall, who is buried in the family cemetery on the property with his wife and a number of their descendants, was a prosperous landowner and planter who owned 15 slaves at the taking of the 1850 federal census. He also owned a saw mill, brick kiln and foundry for making plow points. A prominent local figure, he lent his name to the nearby town of Stovall, the largest in the northern half of the county. When the Southern Railway cut through the community then known as Sassafras Fork in the late 1880s, Stovall gave it the right-of-way for its tracks. The train station was accordingly named Stovall and, though the township retained the name Sassafras Fork,<sup>4</sup> the town took on the name of the station.

The farm has remained in the family since 1839. The Stovalls' son and daughter-in-law, Alexander M. (1848-1909) and Pattie (Jones) Stovall (1855-1934), lived there after John's death at the close of the century. It is now owned by their great-grandson, Marrow Stovall, who lived in the house prior to World War II with his grandmother, Pattie, and his aunt, Esther Ann Stovall (1879-1943).<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> In an interview on March 14, 1986, Marrow Stovall, owner and occupant of the farm and great-grandson of John and Lucy Stovall, said that his great-grandfather had moved to the property, which included an already standing rectory, from a farm near Marrow's Chapel.

<sup>2</sup> Interview October 23, 1987, with Marrow Stovall. The room was used by Dr. Stovall but a short time, because he died, prematurely, in 1863.



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<sup>3</sup> Interview March 14, 1986, and October 23, 1987, with Marrow Stovall.

<sup>4</sup> Interview with Marrow Stovall, March 14, 1986, and October 23, 1987. Local historian Francis B. Hays, in an article entitled Place Names in Granville in the August 20, 1935, edition of the Oxford Public Ledger, wrote:

Stovall was formerly Sassafras Fork. Then for about 6 months, 1887, its name was Albin. When a station was located about that time it was named in honor of John W. Stovall; a leading citizen and large land owner. L. E. French, writing from Oxford October 4, 1887, to his Chase City paper, the Banner of Truth, referred [sic] to Sassafras Fork now named Stovall in honor of that solid man who owned the property.

<sup>5</sup> John W. Stovall willed the farm to his daughter, Sally Stovall Pittard [Will Book 24, Page 421, probated 1899]. Alexander Marrow Stovall and wife Patty Jones Stovall bought the property from Sally Stovall Pittard about 1908. Alexander Marrow Stovall died in 1909, leaving his wife and six children. The farm was divided among the children. Patty Jones Stovall bought four of the childrens' shares. Patty Stovall died in 1934. Esther Ann Stovall (daughter) and A. Marrow Stovall (grandson) bought the whole farm at this time from the other children. Esther Ann Stovall died in 1943. A. Marrow Stovall and wife, Mary W. Stovall, bought her half and have owned the farm to the present. [This information provided by Mary W. Stovall in telephone conversation, 2/23/88 to Michael Southern, SHPO]

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)  
has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings  
Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering  
Record # \_\_\_\_\_

☒ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property approximately 54 acres

UTM References

A 

Zone	Easting	Northing
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B 

Zone	Easting	Northing
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D 

Zone	Easting	Northing
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☒ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

☒ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

☒ See continuation sheet

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marvin Brown/Architectural Historian & Patricia Esperon/Historian

organization Granville County-Oxford Historic Survey date 12/3/87

street & number P.O. Box 1556 (State Hist. Pres. Off) telephone 919-693-1491

city or town Oxford state NC zip code 27565

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Granville County Deeds. Granville County Courthouse, Oxford,  
N.C.

Granville County Wills. Granville County Courthouse, Oxford,  
N.C.

Interviews with Marrow Stovall - great-grandson of John W.  
Stovall and present owner of house - March 14, 1986 and  
October 21, 1987.

"Place Names in Granville County." Oxford Public Ledger (August  
20, 1935). Article by Francis B. Hays located at the  
Richard H. Thornton Public Library, Oxford, N.C.

United States Manuscript Censuses. Microfilm located at the  
Richard H. Thornton Public Library, Oxford, N.C.

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## GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

### UTM REFERENCES

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	17	718700	4036880	G	17	718930	4037330
B	17	718670	4037040	H	17	718920	4037410
C	17	718800	4037100	I	17	719170	4037420
D	17	718760	4037190	J	17	719260	4037230
E	17	718870	4037200	K	17	719200	4037200
F	17	718850	4037280	L	17	719220	4036950

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at point A: 17 718700 4036880 on the USGS polygon, on the north side of State Road 1507, continuing in a straight line north approximately 675 feet, along the division between two fields and then along the tree line, to point B: 17 718670 4037040 on the polygon where the tree line turns east. Continuing in a straight line east approximately 300 feet, along the edge of the woods, to point C: 17 718800 4037100 on the polygon, where the tree line turns north. Continuing in a straight line north approximately 325 feet, along the edge of the woods, to point D: 17 718760 4037190 on the polygon where the tree line turns east. Continuing in a straight line east approximately 525 feet, along the edge of the woods, to point E: 17 718870 4037200 on the polygon where the tree line turns north. Continuing in a straight line north, along the edge of the woods, approximately 150 feet to point F: 17 718850 4037280 on the polygon where the tree line turns east. Continuing in a straight line east, along the edge of the woods then through a field to the western edge of the farm pond, approximately 375 feet to point G: 17 718930 4037330 on the polygon at the western edge of the farm pond. Continuing in a straight line north, along the western edge of the farm pond, approximately 175 feet to point H: 17 718920 4037410 on the polygon on the northwest corner of the farm pond. Continuing east along the northern edge of the farm pond and then following the edge of the woods, approximately 900

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feet to point I: 17 719170 4037420 on the polygon where the tree line turns south. Continuing in a straight line south, along the edge of the woods, approximately 675 feet to point J: 17 719260 4037230 on the polygon where the tree line turns west. Continuing in a straight line west, along the edge of the woods, approximately 275 feet to point K: 17 719200 4037200 on the polygon where the tree line turns south. Continuing in a straight line south, along the edge of the woods, approximately 975 feet to point L: 17 719220 4036950 on the polygon where the tree line meets the north side of State Road 1507. Continuing along the north side of State Road 1507, approximately 1650 feet to the point of origin.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Approximately 54 acres of the property that include the dwelling, outbuildings, cemetery and cultivated fields that have been a historic part of the property, maintain historic integrity, and convey the property's historic setting are being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. The remaining property has been excluded because it is now woodland or it is not known with certainty to be historically associated with the property.

The western boundary from UTM points A to B includes the dwelling and outbuildings to its east and excludes property outside the owner's property lines to its west. The northern boundary from UTM points B to C, C to D, D to E and E to F includes the dwelling to its south and excludes woodland to its north. The northern boundary from UTM points F to G, G to H and H to I includes the dwelling to its south and excludes property not known with certainty to be historically associated with the property to its north. The eastern boundary from UTM points I to J, J to K and K to L includes the dwelling to its west and excludes woodland to its east. The southern boundary from UTM points L to A includes the dwelling to its north and excludes property not owned by the owner to its south.

# JOHN W. SIOVALL FARM

Granville County, N.C.

Approximate scale 1" = 300'

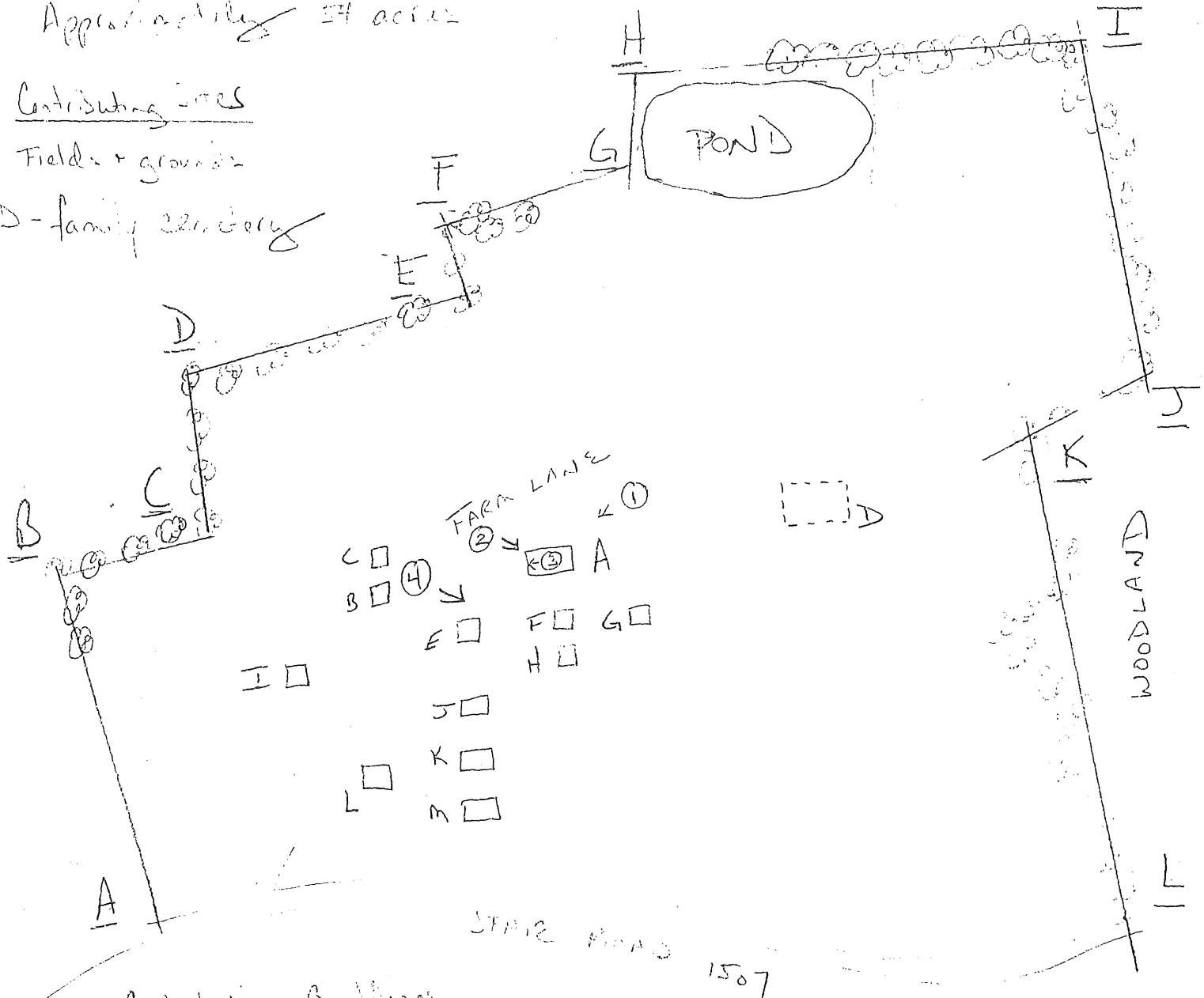
Approximately 37 acres

## Contributing Sites

Fields + grounds =

D - family cemetery

Underlined capital letters  
represent the vertices of the  
polygon drawn to encompass the  
property on the accompanying  
USGS map.



## Contributing Buildings

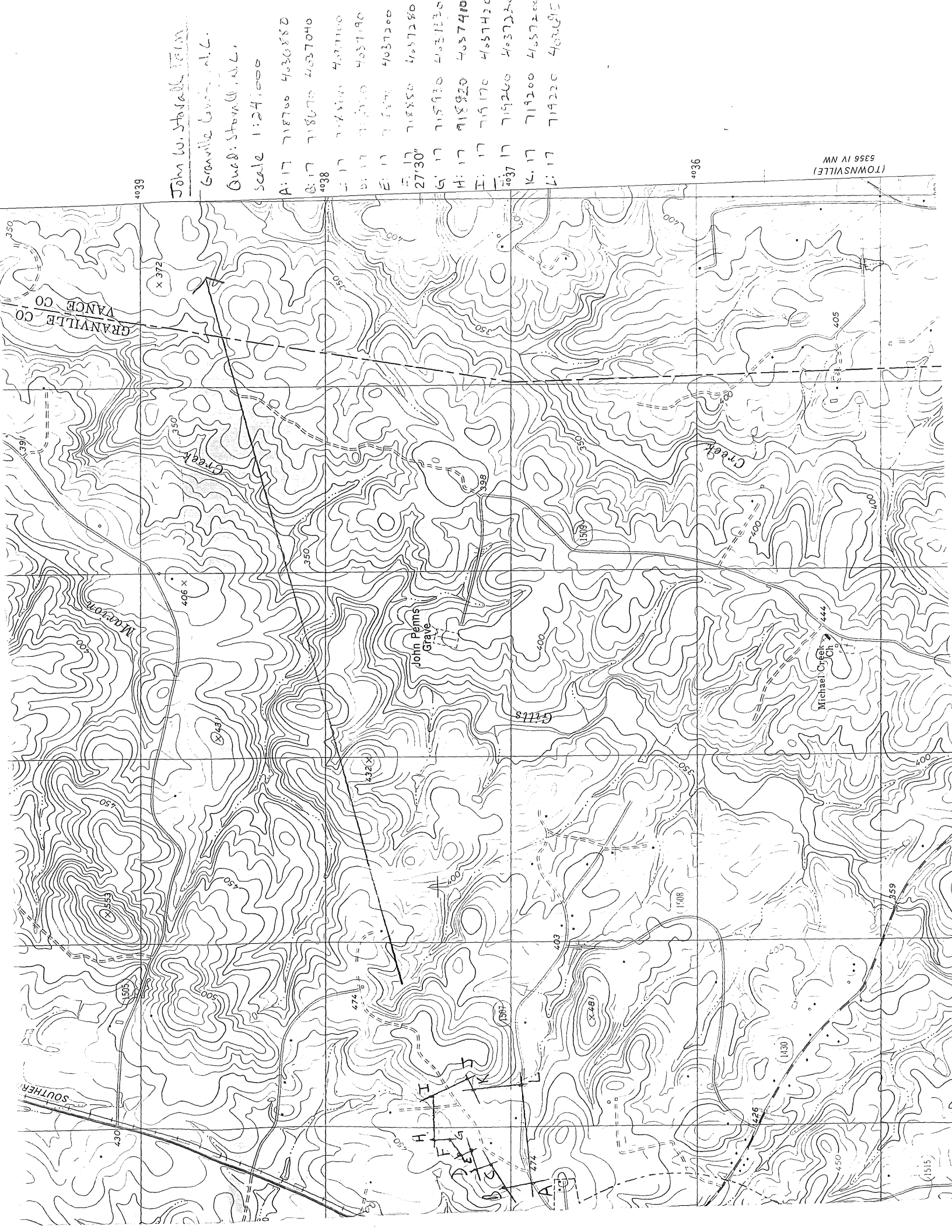
- ↑  
N
- A - 1830s frame house
  - B - ca. 1935 frame stable
  - E - mid/late 19th century frame lumber house
  - F - mid/late 19th century frame smokehouse
  - K - ca. 1937 log tobacco barn
  - M - ca. 1935 log tobacco barn

## Contributing Structure

- C - ca. 1935 frame corner

## Non-Contributing Buildings

- G - 1950s frame smokehouse
- H - 1950 frame ordering house
- I - 1940s frame pack house
- J - 1940s log tobacco barn
- L - ca. 1942/1943 log tobacco barn



John W. Stasall, Jr.  
Granville, Ohio, U.S.A.  
Quadrangle: Stasall, U.S.A.  
Scale 1:24,000

- A: 17 718700 4030880
- B: 17 718670 4037040
- C: 17 718640 4037100
- D: 17 718610 4037190
- E: 17 718580 4037280
- F: 17 718550 4037370
- G: 17 718520 4037460
- H: 17 718490 4037550
- I: 17 718460 4037640
- J: 17 718430 4037730
- K: 17 718400 4037820
- L: 17 718370 4037910

(TOWNSVILLE)  
5356 IV NW

